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1853

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Centennial

Martini Lutheran Church

Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Dedicated
to the Glory of God
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Century of Blessing

The Lord hath done great things for us.

Psalm 126, 3



CHURCH

Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house. Ps. 26, 8

THE EARLY DAYS

One hundred years ago the founders of Martini Lutheran Church were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. They had to face the problems and perplexities of those pioneer days. Living conditions were primitive, roads were few and bad, most of the traveling was done on foot, money was scarce, oxen pulled the plow, mills were reached with difficulty, and products of the field and factory were few. Spiritual conditions left much to be desired. Truly Lutheran churches were few and scattered in this area. Yet the founding fathers and families of Martini were more fortunate than other Lutherans, for, living within walking distance of Fort Wayne and St. Paul's church and school, they could attend divine services and send their children to St. Paul's day-school for at least two or three years before confirmation.

Because of the unfavorable circumstances, the inadequate roads, and the unpleasant handicaps caused by inclement weather, Dr. Wm. Sihler, pastor of St. Paul's Church, in 1848, advised his members living in the present-day Martini area to establish a branch school for the instruction of their children. Following this recommendation, they engaged Mr. Andrew Zagel to teach in their school. He had been sent to America by Pastor Wm. Loehe of Neuendettelsau in Germany to help in the mission field of the Middle West of our country. The first school building in Martini was a vacant house owned by Fred Heine. The members then erected a log-school on a two acre plot of ground purchased from Marvin Bowen. It was located near the intersection of present-day Wayne Trace and Moeller Road and later came into possession of Christian Schlaudroff. Each member furnished two logs. The school was painted for the sum of two dollars. At first Mr. Zagel received an annual salary of \$50.00 and later \$75.00, also free room and board in the homes of members. At that time a worker earned from twenty-five to fifty cents a day. Andrew Zagel taught in Martini's school until the spring of 1853, when he accepted the call of the congregation in Indianapolis.

FOUNDING AND ORGANIZATION OF CONGREGATION

THE FIRST PASTOR OF MARTINI

Frederick Koesterling

November 13, 1853 to May 30, 1858

Pastor Sihler was now consulted about the engagement of another teacher for the school. He advised his members in the Martini area to increase their contributions somewhat which would enable them to call a graduate of the Fort Wayne Seminary to be both pastor and teacher. (At that time a practical seminary, founded and established by Pastor Wm. Loehe for the purpose of training pastors and teachers as quickly as possible, was located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was moved to St. Louis in 1861 and combined with the theoretical seminary there and in 1874-1875 to Springfield, Illinois, where it is still located. In 1861 the college department of the St. Louis Concordia Seminary was transferred to Fort Wayne and is still known among us as the Fort Wayne Concordia College). As a result, Frederick Koesterling, member of the 1853 graduating class at Fort Wayne, was called by those who had previously been released by St. Paul's Church for the purpose of establishing their own congregation in this vicinity. He accepted the call and was ordained and installed by Dr. Sihler on November 13, 1853. Under his leadership Martini Church was founded and organized on

Chrowik.

Dirza Krugovik
ibid.

Grüßung v. Friedrich

Bryozoa. Conf. *Martensia communis*,
innumerable Kingsb. Long., Adams
Township, Ill. Co., Indiana.

Das demulgent anfangl. Löff Har-
tine Gummia, ungewundenes Angst.
Löff, wurde zugewogen in Dose 1/2
1853. Das Löff anfertigen die Gläser
zu der anfangl. Löff H. Paul Gummia
in Fort Wayne. Könnte sie von
Dose 1/2 in Dose 1/2 anfertigen waren,
so wärem sie selbst die betreffenden
Gläser in. beizugeben auf den Markt
sollte, so ab zufragen. Dose 1/2, von
Dr. Schler - der Zögling des Fort
Wayne Seminars, Friedrich
Moestering, zu sein veranlassen die
Löff in Dose 1/2, der auf Zögling
des Löff mit abzugeben möglich.
Könnte sie von Dose 1/2 der ordentl.
Löff Löff anfertigen in Dose 1/2
sollte, so ab zufragen. Dose 1/2, von
Dr. Schler - der Zögling des Fort
Wayne Seminars, Friedrich
Moestering, zu sein veranlassen die
Löff in Dose 1/2, der auf Zögling
des Löff mit abzugeben möglich.

Das die Gewinne sind folgende:

[illegible]

FIRST PAGE OF RECORDS

Remember the days of old. Deuteronomy 32, 7

Thursday, November 24, 1853, by the following twenty-three members: H. Moeller, A. Brueck, H. Meier, W. Bradtmueller, L. Niemeyer, F. Heine, C. Piepenbrink, F. Kiel, T. Weisheit, Chr. Wiese, Chr. Meier, H. Bradtmueller, C. Bradtmueller, F. Wehrs, E. Bredemeyer, J. Gombert, Chr. Schroeder, Chr. Rebber, H. Lange, E. Witte, C. Hockemeier, F. Prange, and G. Schleenbecker. The first officers were the following: F. Heine and F. Kiel (elders), Adam Brueck and Christian Meyer (deacons), H. Moeller, H. Meier, and Chr. Schroeder (trustees).

Great joy and zeal now filled the hearts of all members. They had their own pastor and teacher in the person of young Koesterling, whom Pastor S. F. Stock, in his historical records, calls a gifted, zealous, faithful, and orthodox Lutheran pastor and teacher. They had the afore-mentioned log building for divine services and school purposes. Soon the congregation felt the need for a more favorable location for church and school. According to the minutes of the second meeting, held March 19, 1854, the resolution was passed to erect a new log building, 32 by 22, on our present site. Here, too, the cemetery was located. Each member supplied two logs, one 32 feet long, the other 22 feet. Frederick Boese erected the building at a contract price of \$41.00. Again great joy! Some congregations in this part of the country did not even have such a building. In the next meeting, March 25, 1854, the congregation joined the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. The new building served as church and school until 1870, when the present church building was erected. In 1855 a brick parsonage, 32 by 24 and one and a half stories high, was built at a cost of \$617.23 and painted for \$12.00. In 1858 Pastor Frederick Koesterling accepted the call of the sister-congregation in Spencer County, Indiana. He conducted his last service here on Sunday, May 30, 1858.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR FREDERICK KOESTERING

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1853	0	0	0	0	227
1854	13	2	3	8	81
1855	10	3	5	7	239
1856	7	6	2	4	333
1857	16	6	1	0	351
1858	8	5	0	1	126
Totals	54	22	11	20	1,357

THE SECOND PASTOR OF MARTINI

J. George Streckfuss

July 4, 1858 to April 1860

The Rev. J. George Streckfuss was pastor of present-day Trinity Lutheran Church on the Decatur Road, when Pastor Koesterling accepted the call to Spencer County, Indiana. Martini now extended a call to him to serve Martini together with his congregation on the Decatur Road. He accepted the call and was installed on July 4, 1858. Since he now served two congregations and could hardly be expected to teach school and since Mr. E. Eggers was at the time serving Trinity as instructor, the two congregations called Mr. Eggers to teach in their respective schools. Mr. Eggers was installed at Trinity on August 15 and at Martini on August 29. The records contain no further information concerning him. According to the records, Pastor J. George Streckfuss served both Martini and Trinity in his humble and quiet manner, preaching the eternal Gospel in its purity and administering the sacraments in accordance with Christ's institution. Early in April, 1860, he accepted the call of the congregation at



CHANCEL

Then will I go unto the altar of God. Ps. 43, 4

Grand Prairie, Illinois, which he faithfully served, until the Lord summoned him to his eternal rest.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR J. GEORGE STRECKFUSS

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1858	8	0	4	1	193
1859	14	8	2	10	426
1860	2	3	0	1	123
Totals	24	11	6	12	742

THE THIRD PASTOR OF MARTINI

Martin Stephan

April 22, 1860 to August 20, 1865

The Rev. Martin Stephan, assistant pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, received and accepted Martini's call and was installed on April 22, 1860, by Prof. Craemer, assisted by Pastor Wagner. The first year he received a salary of \$231.50. In a meeting on February 3, 1861 the congregation favored Synod's proposed plan to move the practical seminary in Fort Wayne, established by Pastor Wm. Loehe and Dr. Wm. Sihler, to St. Louis and to combine it with the theoretical seminary there, and to transfer the college department of the St. Louis Seminary to Fort Wayne. Pastor and congregation bravely faced the problems and hardships brought on by the Civil War with its inflation prices and by crop failures. In 1864 the pastor's salary was increased to \$350.00. Martin Stephan, so say the annals of the congregation, was a faithful, conscientious, and gifted man. Under his leadership the congregation prospered in spite of all difficulties. He also taught school. August 6, 1865 he accepted the call extended to him by St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Wolcottville, New York. Two weeks later he preached his fare-well sermon in Martini.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR MARTIN STEPHAN

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1860	15	0	0	2	234
1861	13	7	2	2	443
1862	10	2	2	5	440
1863	12	6	2	6	510
1864	11	6	1	6	477
1865	4	7	0	0	296
Totals	65	28	7	21	2,400

VACANCY

August 20, 1865 to July 8, 1866

During this vacancy the congregation sent calls to two pastors, but the calls were returned. Professors Schick and Achenbach, Concordia College, conducted the services. The Rev. Zagel served as vacancy pastor.

OFFICIAL ACTS DURING VACANCY

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1865-66	6	0	0	1	85

THE FOURTH PASTOR OF MARTINI

S. Ferdinand Stock

July 8, 1866 to September 7, 1919

Dr. C. F. Walther, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, had promised the congregation a member of the 1866 graduating class. This young St. Louis graduate, not quite twenty-two years old, was Simon Ferdinand Stock, born October 3, 1844. He accepted Martini's call and was ordained and installed on

PARSONAGE

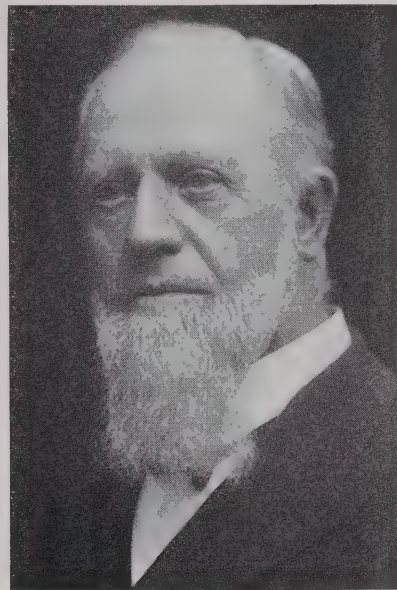


These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deuteronomy 6, 6-7

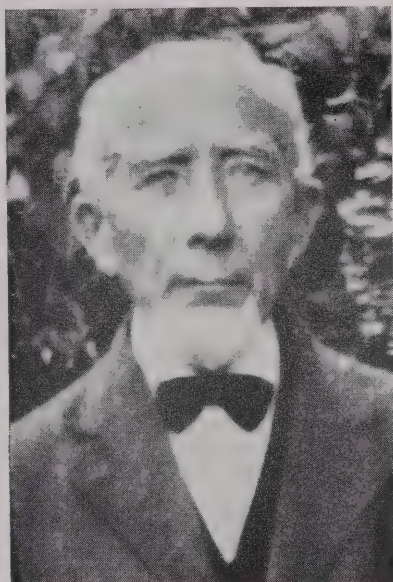


TEACHERAGE

Sunday, July 8, 1866, by Pastor J. Fleischmann. This date marks the beginning of a long and blessed ministry in Martini, extending over a period of fifty-three years. Although he received a number of calls, yet he chose to remain with Martini. God crowned his ministry with richest blessings. The congregation flourished under his able and energetic leadership. He taught school until 1875, in which year the congregation called Theo. Kuechle, a graduate of the Teachers Seminary at Addison, Illinois. Mr. Kuechle was installed August 22, 1875. August 26, 1877 he resigned because of a throat ailment and was succeeded by Rudolph Mueller who was inducted into office early in October 1877. Mr. Mueller was born in Germany on September 20, 1848. He was a member of the 1867 graduating class of the Addison, Illinois Teachers Seminary. Before his coming to Martini he served at College Point, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Bremen, Indiana. He remained Martini's faithful and able teacher until 1909, when he felt himself compelled to resign because of physical infirmities. He died June 30, 1926. His successor was Mr. Wm. Widenhoefer. He was born September 1, 1884, at Fisher, Minnesota.



PASTOR S. F. STOCK



TEACHER RUDOLPH MUELLER

He graduated from Concordia Teachers College at Addison, Illinois, in 1905. Until 1909 he served as teacher in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in which year he accepted Martini's call. He was our faithful, able schoolmaster until December 1, 1918, when he accepted the call of the Lutheran Church at Milford Center, Ohio. From Milford Center he came to Concordia Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, in which he taught for twenty-four years. On November 7, 1945 the Lord called him from the church militant to the church triumphant.

In 1870 the congregation erected the present church building (cost, \$5,465.03). It was dedicated to the glory of God on October 30, 1870. The present church bell (cost, \$418.17) was a gift of the young people of the congregation. The present teacherage was built in 1878 for the sum of \$1,297.37.

In 1881 the congregation purchased its first pipe-organ (cost, \$700.00). The present one-room school building on the premises of the congregation was built in 1882 for \$1,240.00. The necessary school desks were purchased for \$154.00. The present parsonage was erected in 1885 at a cost of \$2,525.00. February 11, 1892 the congregation was incorporated.

OLD SCHOOL



From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3, 15

I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11, 25-26



CEMETERY

April 19, 1903 the congregation joined the newly-formed Lutheran Hospital Association in Fort Wayne. November 26, 1903, the congregation celebrated its Golden Anniversary in its renovated church-building. Pastor Koesterling, pastor at the time of the founding, was the guest speaker in the morning service and Director Martin Luecke, Concordia College, Fort Wayne, in the afternoon. Since Pastor Koesterling in that year observed his own golden anniversary, the congregation presented him with a gift of fifty dollars in gold. The cost of the renovation of the church interior amounted to \$450.00, and the new church windows cost \$375.00. Statistics at the time of the Fiftieth Anniversary: 307 souls, 184 communicants, 61 voting members. July 9, 1916, the congregation joyfully observed the Fiftieth Anniversary of Pastor Stock's ordination. Because of advanced age and infirmities Pastor S. F. Stock resigned on July 6, 1919. The Lord called him to his heavenly home on April 11, 1933. The mortal remains of Pastor and Mrs. S. F. Stock and Teacher and Mrs. Rudolph Mueller rest in Martini's cemetery, where they await the joyful resurrection.



TEACHER WM. WIDENHOEFER

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR S. FERDINAND STOCK

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed	Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1866	5	0	3	1	234	1894	5	7	4	3	718
1867	15	10	1	2	415	1895	7	6	2	6	614
1868	4	7	4	1	399	1896	8	3	3	4	528
1869	7	6	0	6	395	1897	9	5	5	6	534
1870	10	7	1	5	376	1898	7	4	3	3	610
1871	2	6	1	2	403	1899	11	6	4	2	544
1872	15	8	5	1	403	1900	9	5	2	4	658
1873	4	10	0	2	449	1901	7	5	3	5	550
1874	8	9	1	4	487	1902	8	8	1	1	769
1875	7	8	2	1	435	1903	13	13	1	3	512
1876	10	8	0	4	548	1904	9	4	6	6	593
1877	3	10	2	3	579	1905	10	15	2	2	592
1878	10	13	2	4	588	1906	8	9	2	2	666
1879	9	8	4	4	591	1907	6	8	1	3	680
1880	13	5	0	7	598	1908	9	4	2	7	596
1881	4	11	4	3	624	1909	4	2	1	2	638
1882	6	8	7	2	701	1910	5	9	2	3	642
1883	10	4	4	3	714	1911	5	7	4	2	685
1884	5	11	7	4	772	1912	4	10	2	0	707
1885	9	7	2	0	745	1913	5	10	3	2	597
1886	6	13	2	4	691	1914	4	6	2	2	694
1887	10	10	3	5	514	1915	7	8	1	5	708
1888	10	3	6	2	791	1916	3	7	4	3	651
1889	12	8	3	5	615	1917	8	12	3	4	724
1890	6	10	4	3	797	1918	4	6	2	4	533
1891	10	4	1	2	626	1919	6	12	1	1	410
1892	4	7	3	2	668	Totals	409	408	144	171	32,021
1893	14	6	6	4	710						

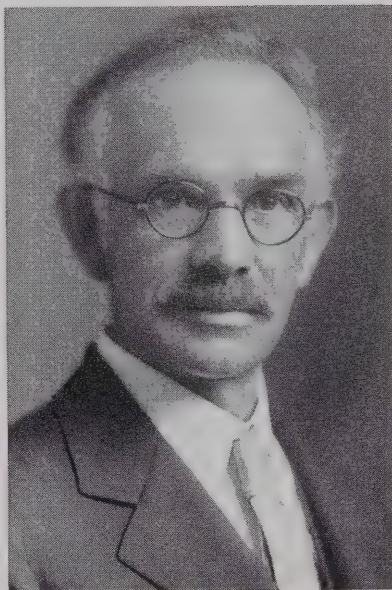


AIR VIEW

In all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. Exodus 20, 24

THE FIFTH PASTOR OF MARTINI
August F. C. Buuck
September 7, 1919 to July 16, 1945

In a Voters' Assembly meeting, July 20, 1919, Pastor August F. C. Buuck, St. Thomas Church, Ohio City, Ohio, was called. He accepted the call and was installed Sunday, September 7. He was born at Friedheim, August 2, 1874. He served the congregation at McClure, Ohio (across the Maumee River from Texas, Ohio), 1898-1900; St. Thomas, Ohio City, Ohio, 1900-1919; Martini, 1919-1945. After Mr. Widenhoefer's release and a number of unsuccessful attempts to obtain his successor in school, Mr. Albert H. Meyer, Worden, Illinois, was called to teach in Martini's school. He accepted the call and was inducted into office Sunday, November 16, 1919. He was born near Rochester, Minnesota, May 11, 1883. He graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Addison, Illinois, with the class of 1907. He has taught at the following places: Denison, Iowa, one year; Fairfield, Minnesota, five years; Worden, Illinois, eight years; Martini's one-room school, thirty-two years; Central Lutheran School, New Haven, Indiana, one year until now; he still resides in Martini's teacherage.



PASTOR AUGUST F. BUUCK



TEACHER ALBERT H. MEYER

Pastor Ph. Wambsgans in the morning and Pastors M. Reinke and W. Stock in the afternoon. The interior of the church was renovated for this occasion at a cost of \$790.00. The ladies of the congregation donated the Christ statue and the

In 1919 extensive repairs and renovations were made at the parsonage and teacherage. November 28, 1920, the congregation observed the fiftieth anniversary of its church building, the guest speakers being the Rev. S. F. Stock and Pastor Preuss. This same year the Voters' Assembly approved the organization of a Walther League in the congregation. In 1921 the monthly envelope system was introduced for the purpose of raising funds for the budget of the congregation and synod. The following year electric lights were installed in all of the church property. April 6, 1924, the congregation joined the Fort Wayne City Mission Society. A new pipe-organ was purchased in 1925 for the sum of \$2,787.00. September 16, 1928, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the congregation was fittingly observed in special morning and afternoon services, the festival speakers being



WORSHIP

My sheep hear my voice. John 10, 27

Walther League and the Sewing Society new light fixtures. August 21, 1932, the congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Teacher Meyer's ordination and installation. So-called double services (German and English) were introduced in 1933 and in 1936 the Voters' Assembly resolved that such services should be held every Sunday. October 7, 1937, the "Pension Plan" of the Missouri Synod was adopted. On August 14, 1938, the congregation joined Pastor Buuck in the joyful observance of his fortieth anniversary in the ministry. The new church basement hall, constructed in 1940 at a cost of \$1,991.30, was dedicated on Sunday, October 20. In 1943 the church interior was beautifully redecorated and extensively remodeled at a cost of \$4,371.00. Then on November 7 the congregation assembled in three festival services to dedicate their renovated house of worship and to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of its founding. Guest speakers for the occasion were the Central District President, W. Lichtsinn, Hammond, Indiana; the Rev. John Hieber, Monroe, Michigan; and Pastor L. Buuck, Arcadia, Indiana. The ladies of the congregation donated new carpets and runners, a new lectern, and new altar covers. The Lord's Supper panel in the altar was installed by the Walther League. On September 3, 1944, the congregation assembled to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Pastor Buuck and Teacher Meyer in the service of Martini. July 16, 1945, Pastor August Buuck tendered his resignation due to advanced age, but served as vacancy pastor until the arrival of his successor. He had served Martini ably, conscientiously, and faithfully for twenty-six years, and God had blessed abundantly. During the vacancy Pastor Buuck led the congregation in the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the present church building on Sunday, September 30, 1945. He conducted his last service in Martini on Sunday, November 4, 1945. At the present time he and his family are faithful members of Martini.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR AUGUST F. BUUCK

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed	Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1919	2	0	2	0	181	1933	10	7	2	5	574
1920	4	7	2	3	671	1934	4	4	2	3	502
1921	4	9	3	3	677	1935	5	7	3	2	520
1922	3	7	2	3	670	1936	9	2	0	7	561
1923	9	5	1	1	783	1937	3	7	2	1	471
1924	7	4	2	1	689	1938	2	7	0	3	621
1925	13	6	2	1	693	1939	4	6	2	1	722
1926	7	8	0	4	706	1940	4	4	2	4	636
1927	4	0	0	3	675	1941	8	3	2	6	635
1928	5	6	1	4	649	1942	11	10	3	4	633
1929	5	5	2	4	500	1943	7	10	1	2	588
1930	6	0	4	3	603	1944	7	6	0	4	687
1931	2	10	1	5	603	1945	9	0	5	3	560
1932	5	6	1	0	702	Totals	159	143	47	82	16,515



CONGREGATION

Lord, it is good for us to be here. Matthew 17, 4

THE FIFTH AND PRESENT PASTOR OF MARTINI

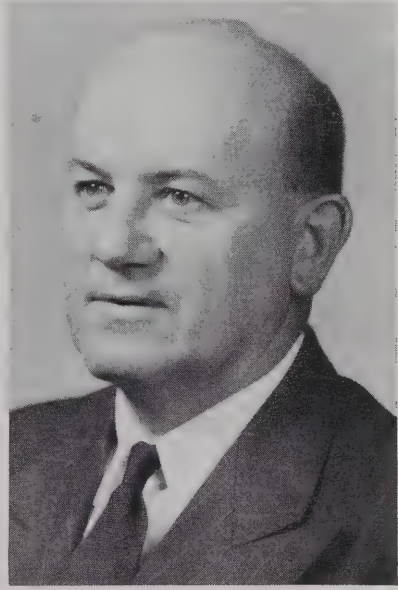
Otto A. Marschke

November 4, 1945 to the Present Time

During the vacancy brought about by the resignation of Pastor Buuck the congregation called the Rev. Otto A. Marschke, St. John's Lutheran Church, Convoy, Ohio. He was born May 15, 1899, in Toledo, Ohio. After his graduation from Concordia College in Fort Wayne in 1919 he continued his studies in the St. Louis Concordia Seminary, from which he graduated in 1922. He has served the following congregations: Bethlehem, Chelsea, Oklahoma, 1922-1929; St. John's, Convoy, Ohio, 1929-1945; Martini, Fort Wayne, 1945 to the present time. He accepted Martini's call and was installed by Visitor Walter Klausning in an evening service on Sunday, November 4, 1945.

Following the installation of a central water system for \$314.17 the parsonage and teacherage were modernized at a cost of \$4,131.20. In 1946 the congregation introduced the new hymnal of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Pastor Marschke's twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination and Mr. Meyer's fortieth anniversary of his ordination were appropriately observed in a special service on Sunday, July 7, 1947. In 1948 the congregation built two new two-car garages, one for the pastor and the other for the teacher. April 5, 1948 the congregation joined Pastor emeritus August Buuck in a joyful observance of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. In 1949 a Sunday School and Adult Bible Class were introduced.

Since the one-room school building and its facilities and equipment (erected in 1882) no longer adequately met the educational requirements of today, the congregation took steps to improve conditions. A proposal to establish a central school which would serve St. Peter's Church, Goeglein; Emanuel Church in New Haven; St. Paul's Church at Gar Creek, and Martini, was rejected. In a number of meetings the congregation discussed the construction of its own two-room school. Finally, however, it was resolved, July 30, 1950, to join Emanuel of New Haven and St. Paul's at Gar Creek in the erection of a central Lutheran school. This school, called the Central Lutheran School, was built on a ten-acre plot of ground located at the Green Road and between U. S. Highway 30 and Indiana Highway 14 at New Haven for the sum of \$314,555.44, Martini's share of the cost amounting to \$75,347.75. A ground-breaking service was held Sunday, June 3, 1951, at 10:00 a. m., with the Rev. H. Heine as guest speaker. The corner stone was laid in a special service, Sunday afternoon, October 7, 1951. The Rev. Edwin Neger, Fort Wayne, delivered the sermon. Sunday, December 14, 1952, the new school was dedicated in a special service at 9:30 in the morning, Prof. S. W. Becker, River Forest, Illinois, being the guest speaker. April 7, 1952, Mr. Albert H. Meyer, who had faithfully served as teacher in Martini's one-room



PASTOR OTTO A. MARSCHKE

school from November 16, 1919 on, was released to enable him to accept the call of Central Lutheran School Association and teach the children of the three congregations in the Central Lutheran School.

In 1952 the congregation participated in the synod-wide "Conquest for Christ" program and raised the sum of \$2,225.35 for this worthy mission undertaking. December 8, 1952, a resolution was passed to celebrate the Centennial on Sunday, October 18, 1953. The church exterior was painted and the interior redecorated for this great festival at a cost of \$1,629.96.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF PASTOR OTTO A. MARSCHKE TO AUGUST 31, 1953

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Marriages	Burials	Communed
1945	2	0	0	0	81
1946	5	13	5	0	760
1947	13	10	1	3	780
1948	8	7	2	7	763
1949	8	11	5	2	797
1950	3	7	2	1	874
1951	7	2	4	6	886
1952	9	8	3	2	878
1953	3	4	3	1	554
Totals	58	62	25	22	6,376

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS

775 baptisms, 677 confirmations, 240 marriages, 329 burials, 59,496 communed.

INTERESTING FACTS REVEALED BY THE CHURCH RECORDS

The first child baptized in Martini congregation was Sophie Mary, daughter of Peter and Caroline Weisheit, born January 16, 1854; baptized January 22, 1854.

The first Confirmation class was confirmed in 1854: John Linker and Bernhard Barthel.

The first marriage was that of Fred Volmer of Indianapolis and Louise Meiers in 1854.

The first burial was that of Mary Schleenbecker, wife of George Schleenbecker; buried January 20, 1854.

The first twins born in Martini congregation were Fred and Dorothea Linker, children of Henry and Caroline Linker. They were born December 23, 1875.

The largest number of baptisms took place in 1857, when 16 children were baptized.

The largest confirmation class was that of 1905, when 15 children renewed their baptismal vow.

The largest number of marriages to be solemnized in one year was 7 in 1882 and again 7 in 1884.

The largest number of burials in one year was 10 in 1859.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, co-founder and father of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its leading light for many years, attended a meeting in Martini, held August 13, 1865.

Of the 1903 Voters' Assembly members (Golden Jubilee Year) Fred W. Rebber is the only one still a member of the present Voters' Assembly.

OFFICERS

- 1853 — Frederick Koesterling, pastor; Fred Heine and Fred Kiel, elders; Adam Brueck and Christian Meier, deacons; Henry Moeller, Henry Meier, Christian Schroeder, trustees.
- 1878 — S. Ferdinand Stock, pastor; Rudolph Mueller, teacher and secretary; Gottlieb Schaper and Carl Bradtmiller, elders; Christian Wiese and Dietrich Rodenbeck, deacons; H. Heine, F. Hitzemann, H. Hartmann, trustees.
- 1903 — S. Ferdinand Stock, pastor; Rudolph Mueller, teacher and secretary; H. Hartmann and Conrad Gallmeier, elders; Christian Nieter and Henry Rebber, deacons; F. Koenig, Theo. Zelt, E. G. Schaper, trustees.
- 1928 — August F. Buuck, pastor; Ernest Rebber and August Wesling, elders; Richard Kreiselmeyer and Herman Nieter, deacons; G. E. C. Schaper, Christ Meyer, John Adams, trustees; Teacher Albert H. Meyer, secretary; C. Schlaudroff, treasurer.
- 1953 — Otto A. Marschke, pastor; Theo. Buuck and August Stegmann, elders; Elmer Bradtmueller, Dale Augenstein, Wilbert Bradtmiller, Carl Schaper, August Stegmann, Erwin Zelt, deacons; Herman Bearman, Arnold Zelt, Gerhard Schaper, trustees; Fred Werling, chairman; Elmer Schlaudroff, vice-chairman; Teacher Albert H. Meyer, secretary; Arthur Brueck, treasurer.

PRESENT STATISTICS

323 souls; 231 communicants; 75 voting members, 50 school children



CHURCH COUNCIL

Seated, left to right: Erwin Zelt, Herman Bearman, Arnold Zelt, Theo. Buuck, Aug. Stegmann, Pastor Otto A. Marschke, Albert H. Meyer.

Standing, left to right: Carl Schaper, Elmer Bradtmueller, Dale Augenstein, Gerhard Schaper, Elmer Schlaudroff, Fred Werling, Wilbert Bradtmiller, Arthur Brueck.



NEW SCHOOL



SCHOOL FACULTY

Seated: Mrs. E. J. Hollman; E. A. Marty, principal

Standing, left to right: Herman Heller; Albert H. Meyer; E. H. Brockmann; Miss Anita Meyer; Harold Goeglein.

OUR PASTORS

Rev. Frederick Koesterling.....	1853-1858
Rev. J. George Streckfuss.....	1858-1860
Rev. Martin Stephan.....	1860-1865
Rev. S. Ferdinand Stock.....	1866-1919
Rev. August F. C. Buuck.....	1919-1945
Rev. Otto A. Marschke.....	1945-

OUR TEACHERS

Ernest Eggers	1858-1860
Theo. Kuechle	1875-1877
Rudolph Mueller	1877-1909
Wm. Widenhoefer	1909-1918
Albert H. Meyer	1919-1952

OUR TEACHERS

CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1952-1953

E. A. Marty, principal
Herman Heller
Albert H. Meyer
E. H. Brockmann
Harold Goeglein
Mrs. E. J. Hollman
Miss Anita Meyer

Total enrollment	227
From Martini	47

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Bible Class and the Sunday School were organized September 11, 1949. The approximate enrollment of the Bible Class is 70 and that of the Sunday School 43. The pastor is in charge of the Bible Class. The Sunday School teaching staff consists of the following: Albert H. Meyer, superintendent; Ruth Marschke; Paul Marschke; Katherine Wiedemann; Georgiana Wiese.

HONOR ROLL

World War I

Albert J. Adam
Otto F. Boese
Adolph Bradtmueller
Wm. F. Bradtmueller
Christian E. Hieber
Edwin C. Menking
Christian Meyer
John H. Rebber
Herman C. Schlaudroff
Wm. Sohn
Carl Voght
Loren Voght
August F. Wesling
Herman F. Wesling

World War II

Paul Bearman
Herbert Blumenberg
Elwin Bradtmueller
Lawrence Bradtmueller
Fred Buuck
Rudolph Gerke
Arthur Hieber
Donald Linker
Robert Linker
Maurice Pfeiffer
Adeline Rebber
Donald Reinking
Walter Reinking
Raymond Wiese

Since World War II

Kenneth Augenstein
Alvin Bradtmueller
Karl Bradtmueller
Melvin Bradtmiller
Norman Bradtmueller
Daniel Duffey
Edward Pfeiffer
Carl Schaper
Eugene Schoof
Ralph Schoof
Marvin Stegmann
Donald Weinman
Lawrence Zehrung



MARTINI SCHOOL CHILDREN



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teachers, top row, left to right: Katherine Wiedemann; Paul Marschke Albert H. Meyer, superintendent; Ruth Marschke; Georgiana Wiese

MARTINI WALTHER LEAGUE

The Martini Young People's Society was organized in May, 1920. The officers at the time of organization were the following: Albert H. Meyer, president; Theo. Buuck, vice-president; Clara Schaper, secretary; Bertha Wiese, treasurer. January 7, 1921, the society, consisting of thirty-three members, resolved to join the International Walther League. Its spiritual leader was the Rev. August Buuck, assisted by Mr. Albert H. Meyer. Its first three-act play ("Tomkin's Hired Man") was presented on April 12, 1922. On the occasion of the congregation's seventy-fifth anniversary in 1928 the Walther League donated the large chandelier in church. In 1930 the League observed its tenth anniversary and in 1935 its fifteenth. In 1936 the society left the Fort Wayne City Zone and helped to organize a new one, the Maumee Valley Zone, in which it still retains its membership. For the ninetieth anniversary of the congregation in 1943 the Walther League inserted the Lord's Supper plaque in the altar. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the League was celebrated in 1945. Since 1945 Pastor Otto A. Marschke has guided the League spiritually. In November 1952 the society resolved to pay one-third of the cost of the new curtains in the new Central Lutheran School. As a centennial gift the League purchased a new organ light and a new lectern Bible.

Its present membership is 36. The present officers are Rosemary Reinking, president; Paul Marschke, vice-president; Ruth Buuck, secretary; Fred Wiedemann, treasurer.

MARTINI MEN'S CLUB

The Martini Men's Club was organized on May 6, 1938. Its first officers were: Wm. Anweiler, president; Ed Rebber, vice-president; Walter Augenstein, secretary; Arthur Brueck, treasurer.

The purpose of the Club is to stimulate Christian fellowship in the congregation, to conduct educational programs, and to sponsor and assist in projects that are beneficial to the congregation. Some of the major projects undertaken by the Club have been the solicitation of memberships in the Lutheran Laymen's League, the purchase of a 16mm projector for the church and school, scrap drives for the Central Lutheran School Fund, and the construction of a cistern for soft water in the church basement. Many minor projects were sponsored and carried out by the Men's Club.

The present membership is 35. The present officers are: Arthur Doehrman, president; Wm. Rodenbeck, vice-president; Martin Brueck, secretary; Herbert Blomenberg, treasurer.

MARTINI LADIES' AID

1863 to 1948

Martini Ladies' Aid was organized in 1863 with twenty contributing members. Mrs. Martin Stephan was its first president from 1863 to 1865. During this time \$64.53 were donated for various purposes. For the next twelve years, 1866-1878, no records are available. In the forty years from 1879 to 1919 the society was headed by Mrs. S. F. Stock. During these years \$2,041.55 were contributed by the members, of which \$1,445.45 were used to aid a number of students pre-



WALTHER LEAGUE



MEN'S CLUB

paring for the ministry and \$596.10 for mission and charitable purposes. From 1919 to 1948 the following served as presidents: Mrs. August Buuck, 1919 to 1939; Mrs. Anna Rebber, 1940 to 1943; Mrs. Fred Werling, 1944 to 1947; Mrs. Elmer Schlaudroff, 1948. During these 29 years the ladies contributed the following sums: \$1,199.65 for various purposes in the congregation; \$468.36 for Student Aid; \$92.00 for the Indianapolis Orphanage; \$216.00 for the Martha Society; \$40.00 for the Kendallville Old People's Home; \$510.89 for miscellaneous purposes, like European Relief, Red Cross, missions, Lutheran Hour, etc., making a total of \$2,526.90. From 1863 to 1948 the Ladies' Aid contributed more than \$4,600.00. Most commendable!

MARTINI SEWING SOCIETY

1915-1948

The Sewing Society was organized January 24, 1915 for the purpose of sewing for the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. At first the members met once a month in the homes of the congregation and paid 10c dues per meeting. The first sewing committee consisted of Mrs. Ernst Rebber and Mrs. August Wesling. The society agreed to supply one room in the hospital with the necessary articles. Such work was done for the hospital from 1915 to 1942. It is noteworthy that in these 27 years the Sewing Society donated or sewed the following articles for the hospital: 8 blankets, 210 pads, 405 napkins, 128 bed sheets, 2 rugs, 197 pillow cases, 1 screen, 2,017 towels, 16,582 sponges, 2 chairs, 56 wash cloths, 1 bed spread, 211 covers for tables, dressers, and stands. From 1915 to 1948 the society donated the following sums: \$1,018.57 for congregational purposes; \$303.00 for European Relief; \$556.02 for the Lutheran Hospital; \$362.57 for various charitable purposes, making a total of \$2,250.16. An achievement pleasing to God! The presidents were the following: Mrs. Albert Meyer, 1928 to 1941; Mrs. Martin Brueck, 1942 to 1943; Mrs. Arthur Doehrmann, 1944 to 1945; Mrs. Emil Jackemeyer, 1946 to 1947; Mrs. Fred H. F. Rebber, 1948.

LADIES' AID

1949-1953

In 1949 the former Ladies' Aid and the Sewing Society united and organized the new Ladies' Aid. The present society continues to do the work which had been done so admirably by the former organizations. Together with the ladies of Emanuel Church in New Haven and of St. Paul's at Gar Creek our ladies have paid for the kitchen equipment in the Central Lutheran School. For this purpose our Martini ladies contributed the sum of \$1,412.54. For other congregational purposes they have given \$806.13 since 1949 and for other good causes, like missions and charitable institutions, the sum of \$1,179.24. A centennial gift of one hundred dollars was presented to the congregation. May the Lord continue to bless the work of our ladies! Since 1949 the following have served as presidents of the Aid: Mrs. Rose Reinking, 1949-1950; Mrs. Fred Werling, 1951; Mrs. Walter Augenstein, 1952-1953.

The present officers are the following: Mrs. Walter Augenstein, president; Mrs. Theo. Bradtmueller, vice-president; Mrs. Wm. Rodenbeck, treasurer; Mrs. Arthur Rebber, secretary.



LADIES' AID



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Left to right: Albert H. Meyer; Arthur Brueck; Walter Wiese; Pastor Otto A. Marschke; Wm. Zelt; Fred Heine, chairman; Fred Werling.

RECAPITULATION OF MEMORABLE DATES

- 1853 — founding and organization of Martini (November 24)
- 1854 — log church and school at our present location
- 1855 — first parsonage
- 1870 — present church building
- 1878 — present teacherage
- 1881 — first pipe organ
- 1882 — present one-room school building on church grounds
- 1885 — present parsonage
- 1903 — fiftieth anniversary of congregation (November 26)
- 1920 — fiftieth anniversary of present church building
- 1928 — seventy-fifth anniversary of congregation (September 16)
- 1940 — church basement hall
- 1943 — ninetieth anniversary of congregation (November 7)
- 1945 — seventy-fifth anniversary of present church-building (September 30)
- 1950 — Central Lutheran School Association
- 1951 — Central Lutheran School Corner Stone Laying (October 7)
- 1952 — Central Lutheran School dedication (December 14)
- 1953 — Centennial of Martini's founding (October 18)

CONCLUSION

A century of uninterrupted divine grace and blessing! A century of protection and guidance in the many changes of this world! A century of our Savior's pure and precious Word and Sacraments! All weaknesses and shortcomings of a century forgiven and forgotten! We are overwhelmed by the mercies of God and today declare: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

Before us lies the future known to none but God. Our congregation is named after Martin Luther who, by God's grace, restored the pure Word and Sacraments. May we, like Martin Luther, in the years to come stand upon the solid rock of Christ and His Word! May we, like Martin Luther, love and hold fast the saving truth of God! May the changeless Lord Jesus abide with us in this changing world! May we today pray, as did Solomon of old: "The Lord, our God, be with us, as He was with our fathers; let Him not leave us, nor forsake us; that He may incline our hearts unto Him, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers."

*God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure
Shall to eternity endure.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

History of Congregation by Pastor Otto A. Marschke





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